



*Together, we can save a life*

## Mass Evacuation Increase Need for Red Cross Relief Services

While the remnants of Katrina have all but disappeared, the storm's full impact is yet to be seen. Residents of seven states are coping with flooding, homelessness, and massive destruction. Three days after Katrina's landfall, more 2.3 million people in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi are without power, almost 80,000 are in emergency shelters, as many as 100,000 are awaiting evacuation, and thousands are feared dead. The Bush administration declared a public health emergency for the entire Gulf Coast on Tuesday, in an effort to stop the spread of diseases, such as cholera and typhoid.



*New Orleans residents lining up to get into the Superdome, many lack transportation or have special needs. Marty Bahamonde/FEMA*

On Tuesday, as the residents of New Orleans thought they had escaped Katrina's full fury, two levees were breached, swamping an estimated 80 percent of the city. According to the mayor's office, which is calling for a "total evacuation", the city will not be functional for two or three months. There remain, between 50,000 and 100,000 people who still need to be evacuated from the city. The more than 23,000 refugees in the Superdome are being evacuated to the Houston Astrodome, as conditions in the Superdome have become horrendous.

In Mississippi, where a 30-foot storm surge slammed the coastline, at least 185 people are reported dead. These numbers are expected to increase over the next several days or even weeks as crews gain access to coastal communities which have been cut off by the storm.

### Largest Response in the History of the Red Cross

The American Red Cross began mobilizing volunteers and supplies several days before Katrina's landfall early Monday morning. On the night of the storm, tens of thousands of people sought refuge in Red Cross shelters, and this number has since tripled. The Red Cross has deployed almost 3,000 volunteers to support the needs of the Katrina's victims eight states. We are providing for the additional shelter needs of hurricane survivors who stayed in New Orleans as they are being evacuated to the Louisiana State Univ campus in Baton Rouge and to the Astrodome in Houston, TX. We are working with our partners to set up kitchen sites throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Each kitchen will have the capacity to feed 20,000 people a day, and once mobilized, the Red Cross will have the capacity to provide 500,000 hot meals each day.

#### Response Report for Hurricane Katrina Shelter Counts as of 3:00 pm August 31, 2005

State	AL	MS	LA	TX	TN	AR	North FL	GA	Totals
Red Cross Shelters Currently Open	32	97	90	35	1	2	8	8	254
Current Shelter Population	3,345	12,798	47,300	5,378	0	185	481	100	69,587